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April 27, 2006

# VIA E-MAIL & HAND DELIVERY

B. Randall Dong, Esquire
Hearing Officer
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc., Complainant v. South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., Respondent; Docket No. 2003-273-E

Dear Mr. Dong:

As discussed yesterday, enclosed is the original of the consent order which has been duly executed by Mr. Black on behalf of Aiken Cooperative, by Ms. Hudson on behalf of ORS, and by Mitch Willoughby on behalf of SCE&G.

If any further information is required of us on this consent order, please advise. If not, please execute this document, file same, and return copies thereof to the parties of record.

Thank you for your continued consideration of this important case.

Very truly yours,

WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.

Randolph R. Lowell

RRL/msp Enclosures

cc: Marcus A. Manos, Esquire
J. David Black, Esquire
Shannon B. Hudson, Esquire
Patricia B. Morrison, Esquire
James B. Richardson, Esquire
(All with electronic mail only)

#### **BEFORE**

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## SOUTH CAROLINA

#### **DOCKET NO. 2003-273-E**

IN RE:	
Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.,	
Complainant, )	CONSENT ORDER GRANTING A SIXTY DAY STAY AND CONTINUANCE
vs.	
South Carolina Electric ) & Gas Company, )	
Respondent. )	

The parties in this matter, Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc., ("Aiken Cooperative"), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company ("SCE&G"), and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), have jointly requested an immediate 60-day stay in the above-captioned matter.

All direct, rebuttal, and surrebuttal testimony of the parties have been filed. Aiken Cooperative and SCE&G have each filed a motion for summary judgment and several motions to strike testimony of various witnesses. These motions are presently pending. Aiken Cooperative has also filed a motion to compel which is also pending.

Under the present scheduling of the case, memoranda in opposition from SCE&G and Aiken Cooperative to the pending motions to strike are due to be filed on Wednesday, April 26; a response to the motion to compel is due to be filed by SCE&G on Thursday, May 4; and a merits hearing is scheduled for July 25 and 26 before the Commission. Dates for the hearing of the

several motions to strike, motions for summary judgment, and motion to compel have not yet been scheduled.

The parties now represent that it would be in the best interest of the parties to grant a sixty (60) day stay of all proceedings and a continuance of the scheduled hearing on the merits in order to pursue settlement negotiations. During this 60-day stay, no filings would be made by any party except that SCE&G may file a responsive pleading to the motion to compel on or before Thursday, May 4. The parties would also be permitted to make filings consented to by all parties. Furthermore, during this stay period, no hearings on the outstanding motions will be scheduled or heard and no consideration will be given on any pending matter nor will a decision be issued by the hearing officer or the Commission relating to any pending matter in this case.

Given the close proximity of the expiration of this stay on June 26 and the currently scheduled merits hearing on July 25 and 26, 2006, it is appropriate to continue the merits hearing and reschedule such hearing for a later date that is acceptable to the parties' and the Commission's schedule. Likewise, upon expiration of the stay granted herein, hearings will be scheduled at acceptable times to the parties and the Commission or the hearing officer to hear and decide the pending motions to strike, motion to compel and motions for summary judgment.

Now, therefore, based upon the consent of the parties as reflected by the signatures of their attorneys set forth below and for good cause shown,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that a sixty day stay of all proceedings is granted in this matter, and such stay shall expire on Monday, June 26, 2006;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that no party shall make any filing with the Commission during this sixty day stay of any pleading, <u>provided</u>,

<u>however</u>, that SCE&G may file a responsive pleading to Aiken Cooperative's motion to compel by Thursday, May 4, and other filings may be made if consented to by all parties;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the merits hearing in this matter, currently scheduled for July 25 and 26, is continued for at least sixty days thereafter or at such later time as the Commission deems appropriate.

## AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

B. Randall Dong Hearing Officer

TEST:

Charles L.A. Terreni, Chief Clerk and Administrator

(SEAL)

#### WE CONSENT:

Representing Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Marcus A. Manos, Esquire
J. David Black, Esquire
Nexsen Pruet Adams &
Kleemeier, LLC
1441 Main Street, Suite 1500
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#### WE CONSENT:

Representing the Office of Regulatory Staff

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Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 737-0889
shudson@regstaff@sc.gov

April 26, 2006 Columbia, South Carolina

#### WE CONSENT:

Representing South Carolina Electric & Gas Company

Mitchell Willoughby, Esquire
Paige J. Gossett, Esquire
Randolph R. Lowell, Esquire
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